

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0318

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WA, SF, UN, PORG
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRESS ARTICLE ANTICIPATES SAG DECISION SOON

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY FLEUR DE VILLIERS WHICH
APPEARED IN THE "SUNDAY TIMES" FEB 19:
"A FINAL DECISION ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA MAY BE REACHED WITHIN
THE NEXT 10 DAYS.
"INFORMED SOURCES SAID THIS WEEKEND THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO SET A DATE FOR ELECTIONS
IN THE TERRITORY SOON AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER MR. PIK
BOTH, RETURNS FROM HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH SOUTH WEST AFRICAN
LEADERS IN WINDHOEK NEXT WEEKEND.
"AT THE SAME TIME , THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT HIS ACTION
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IN QUITTING THE MEETING OF THE FIVE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS
IN NEW YORK LAST WEEKEND HAS PROMPTED THE WEST TO SUGGEST
SOME SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS.
"THE MAJOR POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE
WEST WERE:
"THE NUMBER OF TROOPS IN THE TERRITORY AND WHETHER OR NOT
THEY SHOULD BE ENTIRELY WITHDRAWN AFTER ELECTIONS BUT NOT

BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

"WHETHER THE UN SECRETARY-GENERALS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD HAVE - "MONITORING" OR "CONTROLLING" ROLE IN THE ELECTION RUN-UP.

"THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY.

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT SHORTLY AFTER MR. BOTHA STUNNED THE FIVE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS BY LEAVING THE TALKS LAST WEEKEND, APPROACHES WERE MADE ON BOTH THE TROOPS ISSUE AND THE UNS ROLE.

"THE DISPUTE OVER WHETHER --AS SOUTH AFRICA INSISTS--THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS TERM BE RESTRICTED TO A MONITORING ROLE OR HAVE SUPERVISORY CONTROL--AS SWAPO DEMANDS--COULD, IT IS BELIEVED, BE BRIDGED BY "FUDGING" THE DEFINITIONS AND GIVING THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL CO-EQUAL ROLES.

"A SIMILAR WORD-PLAY MAY BE SUGGESTED TO OVERCOME THE TROOP ISSUE.

"IT IS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WHILE SOUTH AFRICA INSISTS THAT ITS TROOPS BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM OF 3,000 AGAINST THE WESTS INSISTENCE ON 1,500, THIS COUNTRY HAS ALREADY AGREED TO A MINIMUM FORCE OF ONLY 1,499 COMBAT-READY TROOPS, WITH THE REMAINING 1,600 ACTING IN SUPPORT AND SUPPLY CAPACITY.

"IT IS ARGUED THAT THEIR PLACES COULD BE TAKEN BY CIVILIANS.

"ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY AFTER THE ELECTIONS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, OBSERVERS POINT OUT THAT THE WEST HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED THE CONTINUED UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FORCE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER UNTIL INDEPENDENCE.

"THE POLICE COULD BE AUGMENTED IF CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND IT.

"MEANWHILE, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MR. BOTHA'S ACTION IN QUITTING THE TALKS IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK WAS PROMPTED BY A SURPRISING TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT ATTITUDE BY THE WEST DURING THE SECOND ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS.

"AT THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN MR. BOTHA AND THE FIVE, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, CANADA, AND WEST GERMANY CONTENTED THEMSELVES WITH ASKING HIM TO PUT SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION ON EACH OF THE MAJOR ISSUES.

"AFTER BEING KEPT WAITING NEARLY TWO HOURS FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION TO START, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE PRESENTED WITH A STATEMENT READ OUT BY GERMANY'S DR. GENSCHER, IN WHICH THE WEST RESTATED ITS POSITION AND ASKED MR. BOTHA TO CONSIDER IT AND GIVE HIS REPLY IN THE MORNING.

"HE IMMEDIATELY ROSE, SAID HE WAS BREAKING OFF DISCUSSIONS TO FLY HOME AND CONSULT HIS GOVERNMENT--AND LEFT THE MEETING.

"WHILE THE WEST IS NOW CONSIDERING TENTATIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS PROPOSALS, THIS WEEK'S STATEMENT BY THE SWAPO PRESIDENT, MR. SAM NUJOMA, IN WHICH HE HAS LISTED FURTHER DEMANDS, HAS ALSO, IT IS BELIEVED, HARDENED THE WESTERN ATTITUDE

TO SWAPO."
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